



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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To: Linus J. Guillory, Jr., Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer
From: Abigail Anderson
RE: Doctoral Research Proposal, Michael Rossetti
Date: March 8, 2021

Michael Rossetti, assistant principal at the Henry J. Robinson Middle school, is enrolled in a doctoral program at Northeastern University. A requirement of the program is to complete a dissertation research study. Mr. Rossetti's objective of his research is to generate knowledge about how the relationship between principals and instructional coaches impacts teachers at two middle schools. The proposed qualitative study will provide thick, rich descriptions of the principals and coaches' perspectives on their relationships. The perceptions and attitudes of teacher participants' about coaching practices in their schools will be captured through interviews and surveys. The goal of this research is expected to inform coaching programs in public middle schools and to understand the link between well-defined relationships between principals and coaches on teachers' self-efficacy.

Mr. Rossetti proposes to have three participant groups. The first participant group will include two middle school principals that have worked in their role and with a coach for more than 1 year. The second participant group will include two middle school instructional coaches that have received coaching training from Research for Better Teaching (RBT). The third participant group will include 6-12 middle school teachers who will be asked to participate in at least one interview, have engaged with a coach in any of the following practices: lesson planning, participating in coaching cycle, coach observing classes, video-taping lessons or other applicable practices. Additionally included in this group will be an estimated 20 additional teachers who wish to complete a survey rather than participating in an interview.

This research will help to show the district's coaching initiatives have brought principals, coaches and teachers closer together. The practices that are found to be in place at Lowell, will be beneficial for other districts' coaching practices, as well as to identify and recognize the practices that have helped increase teacher self-efficacy. Overall study findings will be shared with the Superintendent of Schools and members of the School Committee upon request.

The work conforms with Policy LC. I recommend approval by the school committee.